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John Guy Lofton to Elizabeth C. Lofton (15 July 1861) with postscript added by A. N. Lofton.

John Guy Lofton

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Winchester Va July 15 1861

Dear wife, It is with a sad heart that I again attempt to write you I feel fearful that you or the children have been or are sick by not receiving any letters from you since Doctor B came back you do not know how uneasy it makes me when I fail to hear from you at least once a week I have not written you since I received yours owing to having to march at the time that I intended to write in fact I had my letter wrote but received orders to leave and did not get to mail it til I returned which was one week and then our officers spoke of sending Ashby home to recover his health & have been about a week preparing his papers but he now will start today & I concluded I would write you again I have nothing new to write you I am well and doing well Brother is well and looks well all the boys

are tolerably well except Ashby who
you will see and can make enquiry about
his health he can tell you all about
us how we live what we eat and
what are the prospects for a fight
and how our officers treat us and about
our commanding officers we have bread
& meat & meat & bread with coffee sometimes
with short sweetening & sometimes long
sweetening and sometimes none

We perhaps will remain here til
our time is out or we may leave here
in a month or two but I could not
say which way we will go if we do leave
we may stay here til next May I
expect to come home in Oct if not
before though I cannot say for certain
for I may not be allowed that privilege
for we may be fighting afloat that time
you must write me soon for I am
very anxious to hear how you are getting
along and what the prospects are ^{for} crops
the wheat crops are very good here corn
is about hip high

The Valley here is a beautiful country
we can see the mountains thirty miles
of rising up like a distant land the
land is very rich here in the valley
our enemies are still at Martinsburg
twenty miles off but we are ready
for them let them come when
they please but I cannot say what
will be done we may have an engage-
ment or we may not it is entirely owing
to Lincoln's Congress I will write you
the middle of this week you need not
be uneasy about me for we may never
begin a fight here at all

We regret Ashby having to leave for
he has been an agreeable informant &
stands very high in our company

Write soon may god bless you
and those little babies & all my relations
and friends generally

Adieu
Yours truly

John G. Lofton

The weather being fine & C, C, L, has thought proper to write you a few lines. You will excuse me for not writing to you. I know Bethe you think that I ought to write but I have been sick a good deal & what time I have been able to had pleasure it has been devoted to writing to others. We are very anxious to hear from you. I recd a letter from Emma & I last week & I got one from Mr. C. Beckell dated one the 2nd & the 3d. As to news of much importance about the war & things in general I think you are as well posted or better than I am. We have gotten a dispatch from Washington that Congress has broken up with a big row. & have not appropriated a cent to carry on the war. I can not say this is true but I hope it may be so. for it would save a heap of blood being shed & many a sorrowful Father & disconsolate Mother & relatives. W. Swinson is dead. died with the typhoid fever & other diseases. It made us feel sad to have to lay one of our friends away in the cold earth but it is something we all have to fall a victim sooner or later. We have plenty to eat & plenty of clothes & we'll get our pay shortly & then we will feel very independent. Tell mother I am doing splendid getting on so I can drill finely. I will close. Give my love to all & except a portion of our family. Yours truly C, C, L. P. S. write to the Col. also to write to the